(c) whether Iran has prepared a feasibility study covering both the land and sea routes; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) The proposed Indo-Iran gas pipeline project was not discussed during the meeting between Prime Minister and President Musharraf in July, 2001.

(b) to (d) The proposal of supply of Iranian gas to India is a bilateral matter between India and Iran. An Indo-Iran Joint Committee was constituted in May, 2000 to examine all aspects relating to supply of Iranian gas to India. The Joint Committee has met on four occasions since then to consider these issues including different modes of transportation, route options and related political, security, economic and technical issues.

During Prime Minister's visit to Iran from April 10–13, 2001, Prime Minister and President of Iran directed the Committee to commission joint feasibility studies through appropriate mechanisms for offshore and overland pipelines from Iran to India on an equal cost-sharing basis. They also directed that the studies be completed expeditiously.

Additional quota of Haj pilgrims

4186. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka State Haj Committee has sought release of additional quota of 320 pilgrims;

(b) if so, whether it has come to the notice of Government that the additional applications were returned by the Central Haj Committee stating that the enhanced quota has not been released to Karnataka; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to release the additional quota to Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Additional quota is released proportionately to all the State Haj Committees including Karnataka having more applications than their allotted quota, depending on the number of seats surrendered by the State Haj Committees receiving lesser applications than the quota allotted to them.

Indo-Bangladesh bilateral relations

4187. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while Bangladesh Prime Minister scotched the reports about her disposition to visit India soon to discuss and sort out bilateral issues including the border issue, Bangladesh Government had indicated readiness to have border talks in May end; and

(b) the outcome thereof, indicating the disputed areas under the so called "adverse possession" forming the bone of contention?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH) : (a) and (b) Government did not receive any proposal from Government of Bangladesh regarding a visit of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh to India in May, 2001. At the invitation of the Government of India, a Bangladesh delegation visited New Delhi from June 11–14, 2001 and the terms of reference for two Joint Boundary Working Groups were finalized to address the issues of border demarcation, enclaves and adversely possessed territories.

Visit of Bill Clinton

4188. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the second visit of Mr. William Jefferson Bill Clinton, former President of the USA, to India during April this year;

(b) whether he held meetings/discussions with some top personalities and VVIPs in the country;

(c) if so, the details, gist and objectives thereof;

(d) whether Government have, by now, evaluated the achievements and benefits of his second visit; and

(e) if so, the quantum of relief that has been received by the earthquake-victims of Gujarat as a result of his visit?